

ALASKA PIONEER FRUIT GROWERS' NEWSLETTER

A Publication of the Alaska Chapter, North American Fruit Explorers (NAFEX)

January, February, and March 1993

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MEETING SCHEDULE

**NOTICE OF SCHEDULE
CHANGES FOR MARCH AND
APRIL MEETINGS:** *Please take
notice that our regularly-scheduled
March and April meetings have
undergone schedule changes:*

Thursday, March 18, 1993,
7:00 p.m., at **Walter Johnson's
home, 1521 "G" Street**, Anchorage.
Walter has cordially invited us to
his home for our March meeting
(it's a three-story red house, easy
to find). Join us for an interesting
and informative discussion on
Walter's composting techniques—
we hope to see you there!

Our annual grafting workshop
will be held on **Sunday, April 18,
1993, from 2:00-4:00 p.m., in one of
Wayne's new greenhouse buildings**
at the Dimond Greenhouses,
1050 West Dimond Boulevard
(between Arctic Boulevard and

Minnesota Drive), Anchorage. The
grafting workshop is one of our
most popular events and our time
is restricted this year, so come
early and be prepared to start
promptly at 2:00 p.m. If you have
any questions about what
rootstocks and varieties will be
available, please call **Erik Simpson**
(at 243-3058) or **Bob Boyer** (at
work, 561-2885). Also, **Clair
Lammers** will be sharing excess
scionwood from many new
cultivars with us again this year.
Thanks, **Clair!**

Since we are going to
experiment with a quarterly
newsletter format this year, please
mark your calendars now and set
aside **May 20, September 16,
October 21, and November 18,
1993** (the third Thursday of
each month—no meetings in June,
July, August, or December),
7:00 p.m., for our meetings and
plan on attending. This may be
the only notice you receive for
March, April, and May, so don't let

meeting night slip by without
you!

DETERMINING FRUIT RIPENING DATES

By **Bob Purvis**

"Can variety X ripen its fruit before
the onset of winter?" A cultivar's
ripening date is an important
consideration, next only to winter
hardiness for selecting fruit varieties
to be grown in a climate with a short,
cool growing season. During my
tenure (1984-1989) as president of
the Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers
("APFG"), I made field observations
of various apple cultivars and their
ripening dates and formed this into a
table giving a sequence of ripening
for 53 apple, applecrab, and
crabapple cultivars. One of the
members of the APFG recently asked
me how I did this, and the purpose of
this article is to outline my
methodology.

To compile such a table would be easy if all the varieties in the table were represented by mature trees growing at a research facility. Instead, the situation was that of having to take observations of a few cultivars ripening in diverse locations and to compensate for differences in microclimate.

The first step was to get information on ripening dates for some commonly grown *Malus* (apple, applecrab, and crabapple) cultivars. In the Lower 48, that would be Red Delicious, or possibly Golden Delicious or McIntosh. In Alaska, Yellow Transparent is probably the most commonly grown apple south of the Alaska Range. Norland, Rescue, and Chinese Golden Early are also well represented by bearing trees. State Fair and Summerred mark the end of the ripening season for apples both in Anchorage and the Matanuska Valley, and are also known and grown in Washington, Minnesota, New York, and Michigan.

Two (2) Canadian publications were invaluable for tying the Canadian cultivars' ripening dates into those of the aforementioned apples. Agriculture Canada Publication No. 1672/E, *Tree Fruits for the Prairie Provinces*, and John G.N. Davidson's *Apple Varieties Hardy in the Peace River Region*, published by the Fruit Growers' Society of Alberta, both give approximate ripening dates for each cultivar described. Some of these have been grown in the prairie provinces, at Beaverlodge (Alberta), and in southcentral Alaska. For

example, in the prairie provinces, Westland ripens in late August; at Beaverlodge, in early September; and in the Matanuska Valley, around September 18. One can therefore use as a rule of thumb that a given cultivar of apple will ripen about two (2) weeks later in Anchorage than in Beaverlodge, or three (3) weeks later in Anchorage than in a typical prairie province location. Norland bears this out: it ripens in mid-August in the prairie provinces and should, therefore, ripen in early September (three [3] weeks later) in Anchorage--and this is indeed the case.

This rule was applied to project ripening dates from these two (2) publications into the Apple and Crabapple Variety Ripening Sequence for Anchorage, and in many instances I was able to confirm these dates with field observations. This rule can further be applied to nursery catalogs, such as that of Newark Nurseries, which lists ripening dates for fruit cultivars in southwest Michigan, or to field observations made at Whitney's Orchard and Nursery on the Naches Heights above Yakima, Washington. Other sources of ripening dates include Publication No. 430, *Fruit Cultivars--A Guide for Commercial Growers*, published by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food; Washington State Cooperative Extension Service Publication No. EB1436, *Apple Cultivars for Puget Sound*, and the annual catalog, *New and Noteworthy Fruits*, published by the New York State Fruit Testing Cooperative Association.

One question that is sometimes asked is, "Do apples take a lot longer to mature in Anchorage's cool climate than in a warmer location?" At Whitney's, April 26 is about mid-bloom for the average apple cultivar. In Anchorage, the corresponding date is about June 8, about six to seven (6-7) weeks later. However, Norland and Chinese Golden Early typically ripen about six to seven (6-7) weeks later in Anchorage than at Whitney's, so it appears that the longer summer days in Anchorage largely offset the cooler weather conditions. Thus, if one cultivar ripens three (3) weeks later than another at Whitney's, it will probably ripen that much later in Anchorage also.

It should be emphasized that ripening dates are approximate and are predicated on an "average" summer in an "average" location. Other principles to keep in mind would be that if an apple originates in a climate not noted for abundant sunshine (e.g., that of Geneva, New York, or Scandinavia), it may perform better than expected in Anchorage if its winter-hardiness is adequate. From the nursery catalogs' ripening dates, it would appear that ripening Jonagold would be hopeless in Anchorage. Yet Lawrence Clark reports that at his south Anchorage location, not far from Turnagain and Knik Arms, Jonagold ripened in 1990 to at least the point of making an excellent cooking apple; this apple originated at Geneva, New York. By contrast, Wealthy, which would ripen before Jonagold according to the Newark Nurseries' listing, ripens even in the best of years only to

being a tolerably good cooking apple. Wealthy originated in Minnesota. Heyer 12, which is from Saskatchewan, likewise develops a better flavor in Fairbanks, which has a more continental climate, than in Anchorage.

In closing, if you see an apple cultivar you like in a nursery catalog, the key question to ask is when it ripens relative to Yellow Transparent. If the nurseryman knows first-hand that it ripens less than five (5) weeks after Yellow Transparent, it's probably worth a try.

ARE YOUR DUES PAID UP?

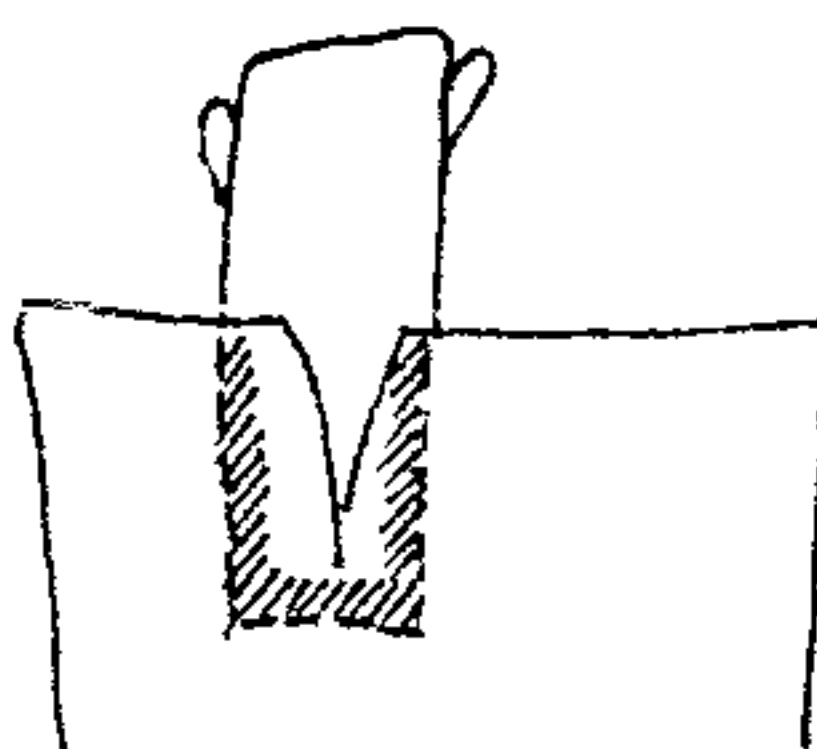
Please check the mailing label on this issue of your newsletter. If there is an asterisk next to your name, we have not yet received your 1993 membership dues and your membership has expired. If your membership has expired, we would like to encourage you to renew as soon as possible. The advantages of being a member are numerous, such as learning about cold-climate fruit production through educational meetings, workshops, and tastings; purchasing rootstocks and scionwood at group rates; and receiving the Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers' Newsletter—all for the same low price of \$10.00 again this year! If you wish to join or renew your membership, I must receive your dues prior to March 31, 1993, in order to

maintain your name on our mailing list. Please pay your dues promptly, using the membership form provided in this issue. And if our records of your membership are incorrect, please contact me immediately at 344-9749. Thank you.

BARK GRAFTING METHOD HOLDS PROMISE

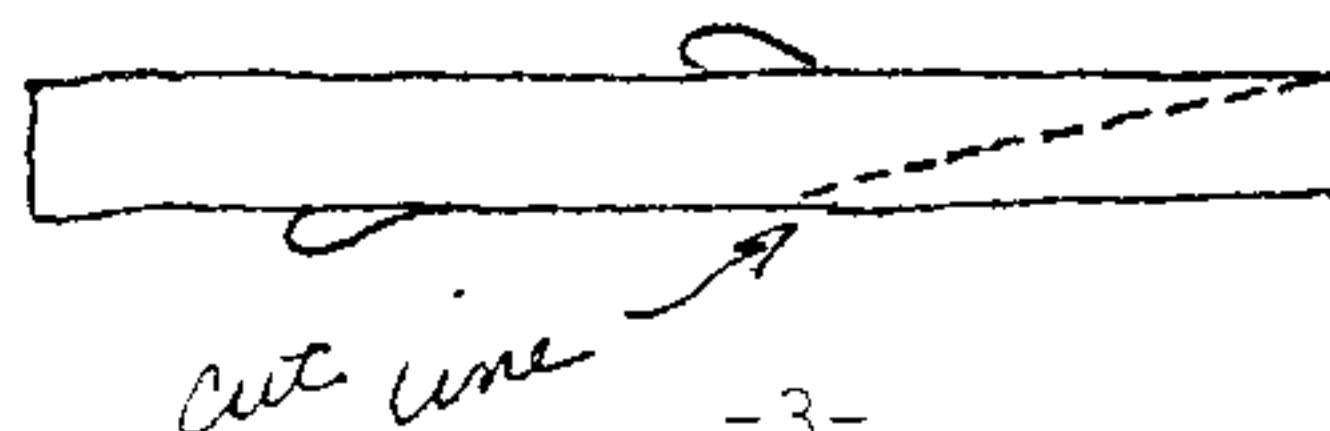
Clair Lammers has passed along a note from Bernie Nikolai, of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, regarding bark grafting:

Here's a diagram that I'm told results in 99% success. Just be sure to cut the stock to the hardwood (it's greasy and shiny looking) and put the cut side of your scionwood (the tapered side) flat on it, with the reverse side under the bark. The finished graft (before wax and tape) should look like this:

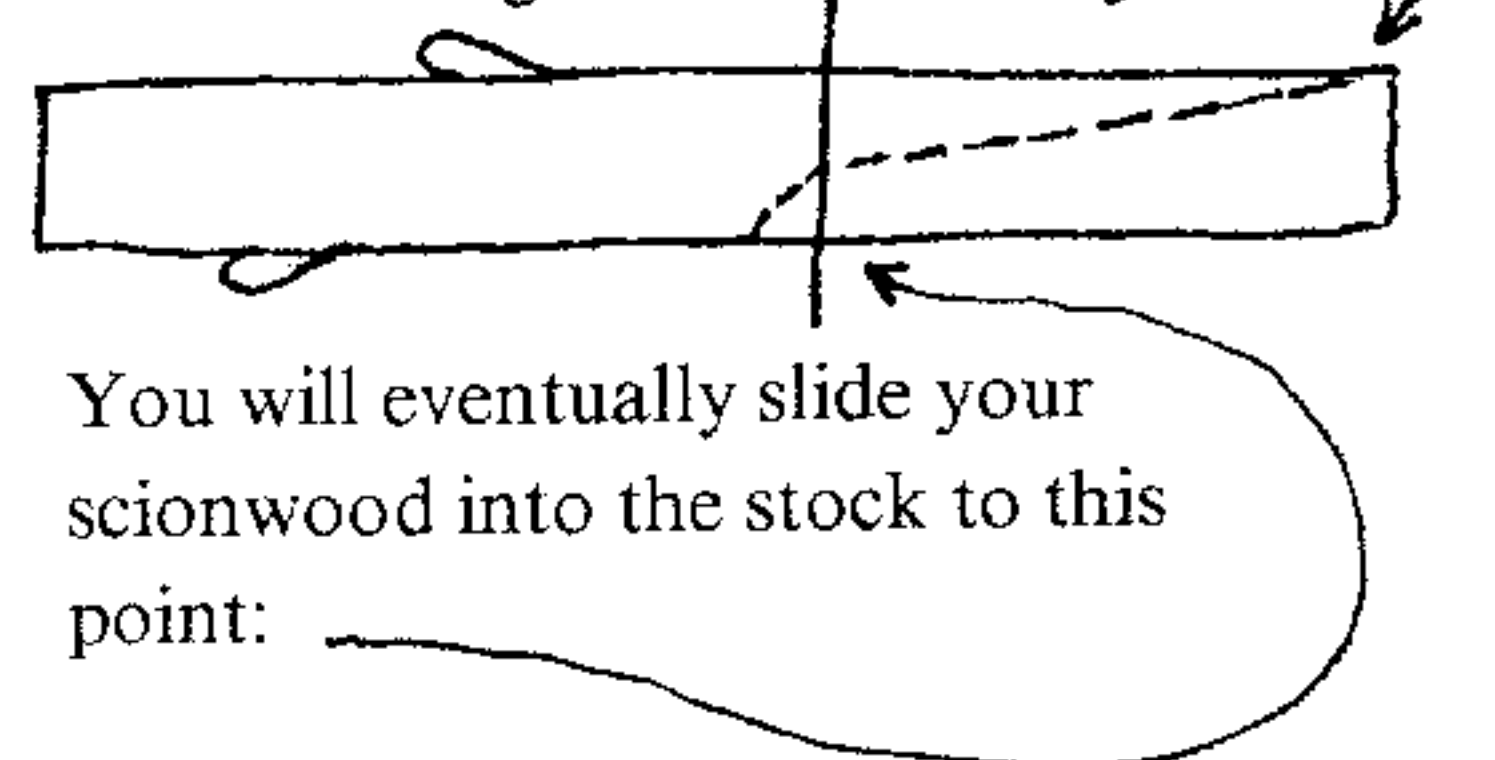


The shaded area is exposed cambium on the reverse side of the wedge.

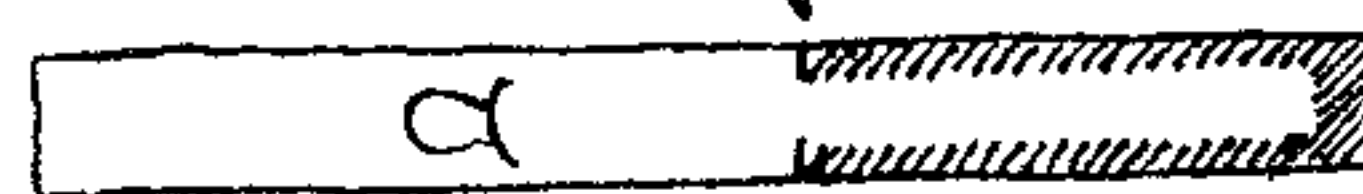
Step 1: Cut a wedge in your scionwood:



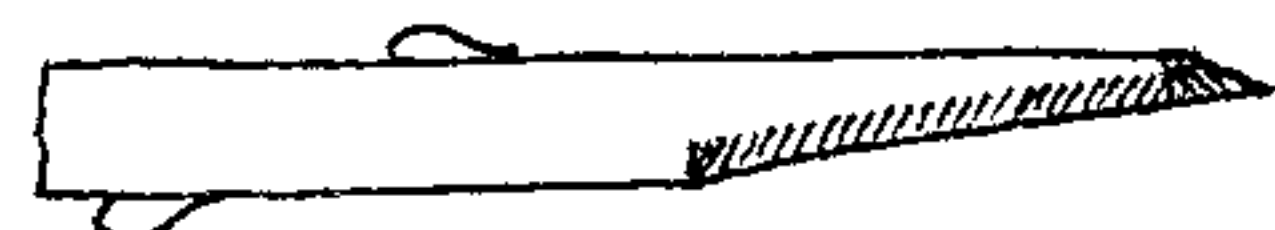
If your scionwood is thick, cut a concave wedge:



Step 2: Shape the reverse side of your scionwood: (a) cut a taper at the end; (b) cut the edges, exposing the cambium layer. The reverse side cut starts here:



Here's a side view of the prepared scionwood:



Step 3: Carefully insert the tapered end of your scionwood past the slit in the stock so the tip of the wedge "digs in" under the stock's bark layer:



I'll soon be able to tell you if I get "99%" success! Regards, Bernie.

(Editor's note: If you try this method of grafting this year, please let us know how successful it proves for you. Good luck!)

FRUIT TREE SURVIVAL RECORD FOR WINTER OF 91-92 IN FAIRBANKS, AK.

The following had no winter injury:

APPLE

922 END	IMP. BATTLEFORD	RED SUMBO	6-16-92
AKANE	JACQUES	RED WELL	
AL MA SWEET	JOHN WALLACE	RENOWN	
ANOROS	JORDAN RUSSET	RESCUE	
ARBOR DALE	KEEPSAKE	ROMFO UNKNOWN	
ARCTIC RED	KERR	ROSTHERN 18	
BATTLEFORD	LEAFLAND	ROSYBROOK	
BIDDY	LIVELAND RASBERRY	SCOTT 144	
BREAKEY	LODI	SEPT. RUBY	
BREAKEY X CRIMSON BEAUTY	LOWELL	SHAFFER	
BROOKS 27	MANALTA	SPARTAN	
BURGUNDY	MARTHA X DOLGO	ST. JOHNSBURY	
C.G.E.	MCLEAN	STALET	
CARLOS QUEEN	MELBA RED	SUNNYBROOK	
CENTENNIAL	MINN 1734	SWEET	
CHESTNUT	MINN 447	SYLVIA	
COLLET	NIAGARA	TASTY	
CONNEL RED	NORAN	TRAIL-SHAFFER	
DAWN	NORDA	TRAIL	
DIEBEL	NORET	TRAILMAN	
DOLGO	NORHEY	TYRUSTRUP	
DUCHES	NORLAND	UNITY	
EARLY JOE	NORSON	VALENTINE	
GARLAND	NOVOIBRIST SWEET	VEEDUM	
GIDEOR	N Y 394	WAUKON	
GLOVER GOLDIE	OSMAN	WESTLAND	
GOLD EGG	PARKLAND	WHITNEY	
GOODLAND	PATTERSON	WIEN	
HARALRED	PF 51 (NORKENT)	YELLOW JAY	
HARCOURT	PRAIRIE SPY		
HEYER 2	RANETKA		
HEYER 12	RED BARON		
HEYER 20	RED SIBERIAN		

- PEARLISH THIS IS DISCUSSED

PLUMS

(NO INJURY)

AMERICANA
ASSINBOINE
BROOKGOLD
BROOKRED
FOFONOFF
GOFF
KAGA
MANCHURIAN
MANCH. BLUE
MANCH. RED
MANCH. YELLOW
MANITOBA NATIVE
MARITINA
MTN. ROYAL
N. SALICINA
PEMBINA
PTITSON 5
PTITSON 9
PTITSON 10
RED COAT
RED WING
SUPERIOR
UNDERWOOD
WEAVER

CHERRY PLUMS (NO INJURY)

COMPASS
HANSA
KAPPA
MANOR
OKA
OPATA
SAPA
SAPALTA

NUT (NO INJURY)
BUR OAK
MANCH. WALNUT

PEARS

(NO INJURY)

ANDREW
B F 6
GIFFORD
JOHN
KING SOBIESKI
MISHURN
NOVA
OLIA
PARKER
PHILLIP
SIMON

APRICOT
(NO INJURY)
MANCHURIAN
MOONGOLD
STRATMORE
SUB ZERO
WESTCOT

CHERRY (NO INJURY)

CHOKECHERRYS
MESABI
P FRUITICOSA
P PEDUNCULATE
P PENNSYLVANIA
P TOMENTOSA
SAND CH. (FRITZ)
SAND X NANKING

DISCARDED (FRUIT WILL NOT RIPEN IN OUR SHORT SEASON)
CHERRY PLUMS: COMPASS, OKA, RED DIAMOND, SAPALTA

SLIGHT INJURY (3 INCHES OR LESS)

APPLES: AMWELL, ANOKA, BROOKLAND,
CARROLL, DOUGLAS WORMLESS, DUDLEY,
DUCHES ODENBURY, DYER, EARLY HARVEST,
FIRESIDE, HAZEN, HENRY CLAY, HIBURNAL,
IRISH PEACH, LOWLAND RASBERRY, MANDEN,
MELBA, ORIOLE, QUINTE, ROSTHERN 15,
SHARON, STATE FAIR. PLUMS: TOKA, WANETA.
CHERRY PLUMS: HIAWAITHIA, OKA.

(10% INJURY) APPLES: MILTON
CHERRY: COMMON SOUR

(20% INJURY) APPLES: MANTET

(30% INJURY) APPLES: PURITAN
APRICOT; SCOUT CANADIAN

(40% INJURY) APPLES: ADANAC,
GLENORCHIE, TETOVSKY.
CHERRY: P. MAHALEB. PLUMS: KAHINTA,

(50% INJURY) APPLES: GENEVA EARLY,
GRAVENSTEIN RED. PLUMS: PRAIRIE
CHERRY: P AVIUM, P. PRINCIPIA

DEAD (VERY SEVERE MOOSE DAMAGE)
APPLES: ALMATA, JENNER SWEET,
ST. LAWRENCE, WOLF RIVER
PLUMS: NEWPORT. PEARS: SUMMERCRISE
CHERRY PLUM: RED ARCTIC
NUT; BUTTERNUT, BUARTNUT

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907 488-6446

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1992 Apple-Tasting Results, tasting notes/Southcentral, Pam Neiswanger Warner, ASO 92

Apples for Alaska: Don't Forget the Classics, introduction to installment article on four pioneers among Russian apples in America, Leslie Toombs (excerpted from *The Apples of New York*, State of New York Department of Agriculture, 1905), Jan 92

Apples for Alaska: Don't Forget the Classics, second installment (Alexander), Feb 92

Apples for Alaska: Don't Forget the Classics, third installment (Duchess of Oldenburg), Mar 92

Apples for Alaska: Don't Forget the Classics, fourth installment (Red Astrachan and Tetofsky), MJJ 92

Stem Banding Enhances Rooting of Apple Rootstock Cuttings, vegetative propagation of apples, Pat Holloway (Sun & Bassak, excerpted from *HortScience*), Mar 92

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Cherry Plum Report, Clair J. Lammers, Jan 92

Some Tips From Garfield Shults, budding cherry plums on apricot rootstock, Bob Boyer, Apr 92

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European Plums for Alaska, Bob Purvis, Apr 92

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FRUIT TRIAL REPORTS BY AREA

Anchorage/Hopco:

Fairbanks:

Mat-Su Valley:

Garden and Fruit Growing Report, Gerald L. Sudkamp, Jan 92

Tok:

Other:

Fruit Facts From Edmonton, Bob Purvis, Feb 92

MEMBERSHIP INFO

Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers, membership information/application, Jan 92

Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers, 1992 membership list, MJJ 92

MISCELLANEOUS

1991 Index of Articles, Pam Neiswanger Warner, MJJ 92

Edible Tree Fruits Produced in Alaska, Erik Simpson, ASO 92

Good News for Health-Conscious Cake-Lovers, using applesauce to reduce high calorie/fat content in cakes, Pam Neiswanger Warner (compiled from *The Anchorage Times* and Mott's national ad campaign), Feb 92

Happy 7th Anniversary and A Note From the Past, membership participation, Pat Holloway/Bob Purvis/Pam Neiswanger Warner, Jan 92

Preparing Your Fruit Trees for Winter, Bob Purvis, ASO 92

Pruning Your Fruit Trees: Essential Basics, reference to article contained in January 1992 issue of *Sunset Magazine*, Jan 92

Recipe for Moose Repellent, Betty Cloud, ASO 92

Some Tips From Garfield Shults, Bob Boyer, Apr 92

Variety Evaluation Record Forms, MJJ 92

Variety Evaluation Records, keeping accurate records, Erik Simpson, Apr 92

Thanks to Joe Orsi, one of our Southeast members, for the following--it's a great article!

Dear Pam:

I enjoy reading the newsletter material and think you are doing a great job with it. In the last newsletter I really liked the piece by Bob Purvis on "Preparing Your Fruit Trees for Winter", and the list of "Edible Tree Fruits Produced in Alaska" was especially appreciated. As far as the newsletter cost dilemma is concerned, I would be in favor of either raising dues to cover copying costs or making the newsletter a quarterly.

You were requesting additional information for your list of "Edible Tree Fruits Produced in Alaska". Unfortunately, my small orchard here in Auke Bay, near Juneau, is only a couple of years old and, therefore, I do not have much to report. However, I recently did some research on the early orchard records of the Sitka Experimental Station. In fact, last month I submitted a short article on the Station to our local paper through our Master Gardener chapter. The article has not been run yet, but I have enclosed a copy for your information. You are welcome to include any of this material in your Alaska edible tree fruit list or in the Alaska Pioneer Fruit Growers' Newsletter. I think you will find that many varieties listed in the article would greatly expand your regional coverage of producing fruit tree varieties in Alaska. At the very least, you could note that Yellow Transparent is throughout Southeast,

not just Southcentral. After all, the roots of Alaskan fruit trees appear to be here, in Southeast!

I would be interested to see the newsletter do a piece on the topic of fruit tree rootstocks for Alaskan conditions. Because I have only been a member of NAFEX for a year, maybe an article along these lines has already been done. If I had a few more years of experience, I would be glad to report something, but, as mentioned previously, I'm just getting started on my orchard. From what I've read and gathered from people in Southeast, M7, Antonovka, and MARK seem to be best bets for apples, and Mazzard for sour and sweet cherries. Any chance of a future article along these lines from a more experienced grower?*

Keep up the good work, and I hope you enjoy the Sitka Experimental Station article.

Sincerely, Joe Orsi

*(Editor's note: Can someone grant Joe's request for an article on fruit tree rootstocks for Alaskan conditions? I know a lot of us would benefit from this information. Please let me know if you are willing to take on this assignment--and thanks!)

EARLY ALASKAN ORCHARD BEARS FRUIT TREE KNOWLEDGE

By Joe Orsi

Most people would never guess that nearly a century ago there was an experimental fruit tree orchard in Alaska. In fact, the station was located here in Southeast, at Sitka, and operated from 1898-1931. Ironically, many leafy descendants of this very experimental station are still alive today in Juneau! I first heard of the experimental station years ago, but until recently knew little about the fruit trees grown there. As a budding fruit tree enthusiast, however, I was determined to learn all I could about this mysterious early orchard in Sitka. I was especially interested in knowing which varieties were tolerant of our cool, wet, maritime climate. As a result, I wound up at the Alaska State Historical Archives and began researching the annual orchard records of the station. A few days and \$5.00 worth of photocopies later, I had satisfied my curiosity. I would like to share with you what I found out about Alaska's first orchard.

The annual reports of the Sitka Experimental Station were one to several pages long and described the fruit tree varieties raised, as well as their growth performance and fruiting success. I soon realized that once trees were old enough to bear, harvest success varied considerably from year to year. The truth of the matter was that most varieties blossomed, but failed to set fruit. This was especially true when cool, wet weather occurred during the mid-

June to early-July blossom period. Adverse weather during blossom time precluded insects from flying and pollinating flowers. Furthermore, cool, wet weather later in the season caused some fruit to crack or not fully ripen. These pioneer orchardists soon realized that southeast Alaska was not a pomologist's paradise! Fruit production was at the mercy of weather and the right variety of fruit tree. In one stellar year when the weather was cooperative, top apple trees yielded 20-100 pounds of fruit per tree and individual trees of sour and sweet cherries produced two quarts.

The following paragraphs summarize the most successful varieties for each type of fruit tree grown at the Sitka Station. In addition, some problems encountered with fruit tree culture at the Station are mentioned.

Apples: Over 45 varieties of apple and crabapple trees were grown at the Station. Most trees were grafted on standard rootstocks, while others were grafted on native crabapple (*Malus diversifolia*) or dwarf rootstocks. Grafting is a technique involving the propagation of a cutting or "scion" of a parent tree onto the root system of another tree. Of the three rootstocks tried, it was difficult to evaluate which one was superior because of the different orchard plots and incomplete reporting of data. However, there was a great deal of attention paid to varieties. The first apple trees bore fruit at eight years of age--in mid-October of 1911. It was soon discovered that only the earliest varieties of apples, the "summer

apples", were successful. Fall and winter apples turned out to be poor choices. What was a summer apple in the Lower 48 was actually a fall apple in Southeast due to our cool, wet summers. It appeared that only a dozen varieties of apples and crabapples made it to fruition. At the top of the apple list was Yellow Transparent, followed by Liveland Raspberry, Keswick's Codlin, Tetofsky, and Golden Sweet. Yellow Transparent trees from the Station were distributed throughout Southeast and were reported to have produced "good crops of decidedly palatable apples" in Haines, Juneau, and Wrangell. In addition to our native crab, the crabapples that produced were Hyslop, Whitney, Sylvan Sweet, and a couple of Siberian varieties (Transcendant and *Malus baccata*).

The Sitka Station was not without problems when it came to apple trees. Apple scab (a fungus) was prevalent in some years.* Trees were usually given applications of a lime-sulphur spray to combat the fungus. Of interest is that the two most successful varieties, Yellow Transparent and Liveland Raspberry, were found to be somewhat resistant to scab. Codling moth and their larvae were a problem in some years, as well as browsing deer, ravens, and human pilferage of fruits. Thus, the Sitka Station was not exactly a controlled setting.

For those of you willing to try a little pioneer apple growing, I have put together a list of summer apples, which includes about 50 additional varieties that were not grown at the

Sitka Station. This summer apple list and sources for obtaining these trees are available at the Cooperative Extension Service Office, free of charge. [Editor's note: Joe's list is attached.]

Sour Cherries: Of all the fruit trees grown at the Station, sour or "pie" cherries produced the most reliably. One reason for this is that unlike most of the fruit trees tested, sour cherries are self-pollinating. A self-pollinating variety is one that does not need an additional variety blooming nearby to complete fertilization of the flower. Initially, there were only four varieties of sour cherries grown at the Station. In the fourth summer after planting in 1904, three of the four varieties set fruit. During subsequent years, fruit was normally set on some trees and matured in August. In many years, fruit cracked before ripening on account of rainy August weather. The most successful variety grown at the Station was Early Richmond. Other sour cherries that produced fruit were Montmorency, English Morello, Ostheimer, and Dyehouse. In some years, one-third of a season's growth was killed during winter. Leaf spot was also reported to be a problem. One cherry tree trained against the south-facing wall of the Station outperformed the same variety in the open orchard. In this instance, the south-facing wall was probably warmer than the orchard site and enhanced ripening; it also may have provided more refuge for pollinating insects.

Sweet Cherries: Sweet cherries, which are not as cold-hardy as sour

cherries, were grown only in the last 14 years of the Station's operation. Before the first trials at the Station, it was mentioned that in private gardens around Sitka there were unknown varieties of sweet cherries that flowered regularly, but never set fruit. This is again probably due to the fact that most sweet cherries need an additional pollinator to complete fertilization. In total, there were about 10 varieties tested at the Station: Baldwin, Black Tartarian, Elton, Late Duke, Napoleon (Royal Ann), Wood, Wragg, Republican, Schmidt, and Spanish. Republican was the best of these varieties. However, sweet cherries were found to winter-kill completely in some years due to their lack of hardiness. But during the miraculous year of 1927, every single cherry tree at the Station bore fruit. If you're a gambler, go with sweet cherries. Thanks to modern horticulture, there are two self-pollinating varieties of sweet cherries available that are worth a try in Southeast--Lapins and Stella. Unfortunately, I am unaware of a nursery source for the Republican sweet cherry.

Plums: Attempts to raise a few varieties of plums at the Station began in 1914. The four primary varieties grown were Bradshaw, Green Gage, Imperial Gage, and *Prunus spinosa* x *Domestica*. Again, it was noted that trees often flowered, but failed to set fruit. First fruition was finally realized in 1927, when all trees bore fruit. In some years, fruit did not ripen or was cracked on account of poor weather. Plums of the varieties tried did not appear too successful; however, Rich Poor, a

local fruit tree grower, has indicated that the Mount Royal variety does well in Juneau.

Apricots, Peaches, Pears, and Nuts: One variety of apricot, the Early Golden, was grown late in the Station's history, but only bloomed once and never set fruit.

The two varieties of peaches grown, Alexander and Triumph, were trained against the side of a building. In 1927, each peach tree bore about 18 fruits that were three inches in diameter. In other years, the peach trees bore small inferior fruits.

Three varieties of pears were grown at the Station: Koone, *Pyrus sp. x Domestica*, and Tyson. Only the hybrid set fruit, but it never fully ripened.

Finally, to wrap it up, one hazelnut tree of an unknown variety produced two nuts in 1927--not exactly enough to stuff the Thanksgiving turkey!

In summary, fruit trees can be grown in southeast Alaska, but fruit production is variable on account of our cool, wet weather. The early experiences of the orchardists at the Sitka Experimental Station clearly reveal that only select varieties will actually bear fruit in Southeast. However, there are newly developed varieties available today that are resistant to disease and hold promise for the future. If you are interested in planting a fruit tree here in Southeast, I recommend you call the Cooperative Extension Service (at 789-2666) for more information.

*(Editor's note: The references in this article to fruit diseases are particularly interesting given Dana Olson's comments at our February 18 meeting. Please see a brief summary of her comments below.)

FEBRUARY MEETING REPORT

On February 18, Dana Olson spoke to us of her efforts, together with her husband, Nansen, to start a commercial "gourmet" apple orchard and nursery in southcentral Alaska. Their orchard is on the Knik Arm, which means they have a longer growing season (and less wind). The Olsons want to promote and encourage the growing of apple trees and orchards in Alaska using environmentally sound methods. They believe a fruit industry can be established here--a fruit industry that produces quality, organically-grown apples that taste good--and they personally are looking more towards larger apples for public sale.

The Olsons prefer hardy dwarfing rootstocks (employing interstem grafts) trained into central leader trees. They are also extremely interested in disease-resistant varieties because they believe apple diseases do exist in Alaska and will become more prevalent in the future. Dana Olson is a strong believer in the

ability of mycorrhizal* fungi (a naturally-occurring soil fungus) to take up nutrition right out of the soil and promote healthy growth in their trees without the use of chemical fertilizers (the fungus and roots live in a symbiotic relationship).

Nansen and Dana Olson have been taking an experimental approach to developing their nursery and orchard in that some of the varieties they are recommending and distributing are as yet unproven here. I do not know when they anticipate producing a commercially-viable crop; their trees have been planted for 4-5 years now, and only time will reveal how productive they prove in Alaskan conditions. The Olsons are cultivating many varieties and, although they are not at liberty to discuss the results of their experimental trials, they have been testing apple varieties for Stark Bros. and Purdue University.

In addition to their nursery and orchard business, Nansen has been teaching classes in interstem grafting and Dana is promoting the setting aside of land for fruit production--and she encourages all of us to contact our legislators in support of this proposal!

*(Editor's note: Dana was not certain which variety of mycorrhizal fungi had been so beneficial to their trees.)

Joe Orsi's Summer Apple List

Table 1.--Some early ripening "summer apple" varieties suitable for trials in Southeast Alaska (Orsi 10/92).

1 Variety	Parentage	Origin	2 Bears	Sitka Exper. Station	
				Tested	Fruited
1 Adanac	Battleford, Open Pollinated	-	J-MA		
2 Almata	Beautiful Arcade X Fluke 38 Crab	-	LA		
3 Beacon	Malinda X Wealthy	MN 1936	LA		
4 Breaky	Calville Rouge Seedling	Canada 1960	MA		
5 Carroll	Melba X Moscow Pear Seedling	-	LJ-MA		
6 Coles Quince	-	ME 1849	Sum		
7 Crimson Beauty	Famuse Family	-	LJ-MA		
8 Discovery	Beauty of Bath X	England 1900's	MA	X	
9 Duchess of Oldenburg	-	Russia 1800	MA		
10 Dyer	-	France 1700	Sum		
11 Early Harvest	-	US 1700	J	X	?
12 Early Joe	-	NY 1800	LJ		
13 Early McIntosh	-	Ontario 1800	EA		
14 Geneva Early	July Red X Quinte	NY 1982	EA		
15 Golden Sweet	-	CT 1832	Sum	X	X
16 Goodland	Patten Greenling Seedling	Manitoba 1946	LA		
17 Hazen	Duchess X Starking Delicuos	-	LA		
18 Heyer 20	-	Saskatchewan	LA		
19 High Top Sweet	-	MA 1822	A	X	
20 Hyslop Crab	-	-	A		X
21 Iowa Beauty	-	-	LJ-MA	X	
22 Irish Peach	Irish Seedling X Yellow Trans.	Ireland 1800	LJ-MA		
23 Jersey mac	NJ 24 X July Red	NJ 1971	MA		
24 July Red	-	NJ 1962	EA		
25 Keswick's Codlin	-	England	A	X	X
26 Lodi	Montgomery X Yellow Trans.	NY 1911	EA		
27 Liveland Raspberry	Early Russian	-	LJ-MA	X	
28 Lowland Raspberry	Liveland Raspberry X PI 143181	Russia 1860	MA		
29 Lymanns Large Summer	-	CT 1847	MA		
30 Mantet	McIntosh X Tetofsky	Manitoba 1929	MA		
31 Morden 359	Wealthy X Melba	Manitoba	LA		
32 Morden 363	Haralson X Melba	Manitoba	LA		
33 New Summer Scarlet	-	US 1955	MA		
34 Norland	Melba X Rescue	-	MA		
35 Oregon Crab	Malus diversifolia	-	A	X	X
36 Oriole	Liveland Raspberry X Yellow Trans.	MN 1949	LJ-MA		
37 Parantene	Gravenstein X Yellow Trans.	-	MA		
38 Parkland	-	Canada	LA		
39 Patton	-	-	Sum		
40 Primate	-	NY 1840	MA	X	
41 Quinte	Crimson Beauty X Melba	-	EA		

42	Raritan	MelbaXSonora X MelXWilliamsXStarr	NJ 1966	LA		
43	Red Astrachan	-	Russia 1816	MA	X	
44	Red June	-	NC 1848	LA	X	
45	Red Melba	Liveland Raspberry X McIntosh	Ottawa 1909	LA		
46	Red Sumbo	Sport of Summer Rambo	IN 1930	Sum		
47	<u>Redfree</u>	-	-	A		
48	Rescue Apple-Crab	Seedling of Blushed Calville	-	LJ-MA		
49	Rosethern 15	-	Saskatchewan	EA		
50	Rosethern 18	-	Saskatchewan	LA		
51	Siberian Crab	<u>Malus baccata</u>	Russia	-A	X	
52	Sops of Wine	-	England 1832	MA	X	
53	Starr	-	NJ 1865	LA		
54	State Fair	Mantet X Oriole	MN 1979	LJ-MA		
55	Summer Rambo	-	France 1500's	EA		
56	Summerred	-	BC 1964	-A		
57	Sweet Bough	Golden Delicious X McIntosh	US 1817	EA	X	
58	Sylvan Sweet	-	-	-A	X	
59	Tetovsky	-	Russia	LJ-MA	X	
60	Transcendent Crab	-	-	-A	X	
61	Vista Bella	Siberian Variety	NJ 1974	EA		
62	Westland	Dr. Bill X Heyer	Canada	MA		
63	Whitney Crabapple	-	-	A	X	
64	Williams	-	MA 1750	LA		
65	William's Pride	-	-	EA		
66	<u>Wynooche</u>	-	NY 1967	LA		
67	Yellow Transparent	-	Russia 1870	EA	X	

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1. Underlined variety indicates some resistance to scab.

2. Sum=Summer, J=July, A=August, E=early, M=mid, and L=late

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